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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/554,670	05/18/2000	SHIGEKI ASAI	Q59136	6561

7590

02/19/2002

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EXAMINER

CUEVAS, PEDRO J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2834

DATE MAILED: 02/19/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/554,670

Applicant(s)

ASAI, SHIGEKI

Examiner

Pedro J. Cuevas

Art Unit

2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 13 December 2001 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-4 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Claim 4 recites the limitation "the end portion". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,126,609 to Shimono et al.

Shimono et al. clearly teaches the construction of the construction of a motor supporting device comprising:

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a motor accommodating section (42b) for accommodating and holding a motor (31) therein, and

a gear holding section (42a) that rotatably holds a gear (16, 43, 45 and 49) for externally transmitting a driving force of said motor,

wherein said motor supporting device further comprises a covering section (32), which is monolithically formed with said motor accommodating section and flatly covers said gear holding section.

6. With regards to claim 2, Shimono et al. discloses a covering section comprising a side pressing section (42a) that abuts to an end portion of said gear (49) provided to a drive shaft (5) of the motor.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 3, 4, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,126,609 to Shimono et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,600,746 to Arnett.

Shimono et al. discloses a motor supporting device as previously described.

However, it fails to disclose a fitting section for:

fixing said covering section to said motor accommodating section, with said side-pressing section being abutted to the end portion of said gear mounted to said motor drive

shaft, said fitting section being provided to at least either one of said covering section and said motor accommodating section (claims 3 and 8);

coupling the end portion of a support shaft that is formed in said gear holding section for rotatably holding the gear to said covering section, said fitting section being provided to at least either one of said covering section and the end portion of said support shaft (claims 4 and 6).

Arnett teaches the construction of a coupler having fitting sections (42, 43 & 49) for the purpose of effectively lock in place the various pieces of the coupler.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the fitting sections disclosed by Arnett on the motor supporting device disclosed by Shimono et al. for the purpose of effectively lock in place the various pieces of the coupler.

9. Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,126,609 to Shimono et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,600,746 to Arnett as applied to claims 3, 4, 6 and 8 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,654,847 to Yagi et al.

Shimono et al. in view of Arnett discloses a motor supporting device as previously described.

However, it fails to disclose a covering section being bendably formed with respect to said motor accommodating section (claims 5 and 7); and comprises a side pressing section that abuts to the end portion of said gear provided to the motor shaft (claim 7).

Yagi et al. teaches the construction of link portions (15c) being bendably formed for the purpose of connecting the printed circuit board (15b) to the printed circuit board (15a) of the base (11).

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to use the link portions disclosed by Yagi et al. on the motor supporting device disclosed by Shimono et al. in view of Arnett for the purpose of connecting the covering section to the motor supporting device in a one-piece bendable construction.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pedro J. Cuevas whose telephone number is (703) 308-4904. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Néstor R. Ramírez can be reached on (703) 308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-1341 for regular communications and (703) 305-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Pedro J. Cuevas
February 7, 2002



Nicholas Ponomarenko
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2800